

April 6, 2006

Sirs, I am very concerned about the proposal by Wal-Mart to begin some banking functions in its stores. Loss of community banks and undermining of local economies are just two issues of concern. Wal-Marts "one-stop" shopping approach has already driven some community businesses like hardware and food stores out of business. In addition, as a money lender Wal-Mart could refuse to loan money to smaller local businesses who seek loans. Local banks would be much more receptive to such loan applications by local businesses. I think that Wal-Mart shouldn't be trusted to enter the money business.

Wal-Mart has already turned itself into an "empire" with plenty of power. It has a history of skirting, bending and even breaking laws for the sake of its profits. Not to mention, its treatment of employees -- women, in particular -- by not allowing them to consider unionizing and using discrimination.

Wal-Mart is quick to point the corporate finger at other conglomerates such as Target who does offer some banking functions in its stores, but since Wal-Mart dwarfs other such conglomerates at least 6 to 1, their criticism is not valid. Targets banking profits are small when weighed against Wal-Mart's profits without the banking functions.

Wal-Mart will continue to make a large profit even without the banking function in its stores.

For some time now, I have personally boycotted Wal-Mart because of their unfair employee treatment. I actually prefer to patronize local smaller businesses where the staff know the stock and can assist customers in questions about hardware and other such matters. In addition, I have never found any Wal-Mart a particularly pleasant place to shop. I would never do any banking with Wal-Mart!

I am writing to you because I feel passionately about Wal-Mart's influence in the business sector, so please strongly weigh the facts, not just the "line" given out by this bloated corporation.

Thank you.

Demaris Hollembeak